

AMENDMENTS TO AND LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for decreasing cartilage abnormalities in an animal in need of such decrease ~~which comprises~~comprising systemically administering to said animal a cartilage abnormality decreasing effective amount of a combination of at least one sulfur containing amino acid and manganese.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~A method in accordance with~~ claim 1 wherein the animal ~~is prevented from having or~~ has a condition selected from the group consisting of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, osteochondrosis, degenerative joint disease, synovitis, bacterial purulent arthritis, osteoarthropathia, and psoriatica.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~A method in accordance with~~ claim 1 wherein at least one sulfur containing amino acid is selected from the group consisting of D-methionine, L-methionine, DL-methionine, D-cysteine, L-cysteine, DL-cysteine, D-cystine, L-cystine, DL-cystine, S-adenosylmethionine, betaine, beta-hydroxy analog of methionine, and manganese methionine.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~A method in accordance with~~ claim 1 wherein the minimum quantity of amino acid is about 1.2 wt % and the minimum amount of manganese is about 50 ppm of the daily diet sufficient to satisfy the nutrition needs of the animal.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~A method in accordance with~~ claim 1 wherein the administration is oral.

6. (Original) A composition suitable for systemic administration to a animal comprising a cartilage abnormality decreasing amount of a combination of at least one sulfur containing amino acid and manganese in association with a carrier.

7. (Currently Amended) The composition of ~~in accordance with~~ claim 6 wherein at least one sulfur containing amino acid is selected from the group consisting of D-methionine, L-methionine, DL-methionine, D-cysteine, L-cysteine, DL-cysteine, D-cystine, L-cystine, DL-cystine, S-adenosylmethionine, betaine, beta-hydroxy analog of methionine, and manganese methionine.

8. (Currently Amended) The composition of in accordance with claim 6 wherein the administration is oral.

9. (Currently Amended) The composition of in accordance with claim 6 wherein the minimum quantity of amino acid is about 1.2 wt % and the minimum amount of manganese is about 50 ppm of the daily diet sufficient to satisfy the nutrition needs of the animal.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing degradation of cartilage tissue in an animal in need of said prevention ~~which comprises~~ comprising administering to the said animal, a cartilage degradation prevention effective amount of at least one sulfur containing amino acid and manganese.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of in accordance with claim 10 wherein the animal is prevented from having or has a condition selected from the group consisting of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, osteochondrosis, degenerative joint disease, synovitis, bacterial purulent arthritis, osteoarthropathia, and psoriatica.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of in accordance with claim 10 wherein at least one sulfur containing amino acid is selected from the group consisting of D-methionine, L-methionine, DL-methionine, D-cysteine, L-cysteine, DL-cysteine, D-cystine, L-cystine, DL-cystine, S-adenosylmethionine, betaine, beta-hydroxy analog of methionine, and manganese methionine.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of in accordance with claim 10 wherein the minimum quantity of amino acid is about 1.2 wt % and the minimum amount of manganese is about 50 ppm of the daily diet sufficient to satisfy the nutrition needs of the animal.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of in accordance with claim 10 wherein the administration is oral.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing cartilage development in an animal ~~which comprises~~ comprising administering to the said animal an enhancing cartilage development effective amount of at least one sulfur containing amino acid and manganese.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing disease associated with cartilage degradation in an animal ~~which comprises~~comprising administering to the said animal an enhancing cartilage development effective amount of at least one sulfur containing amino acid and manganese.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for treating disease associated with cartilage degradation in an animal ~~which comprises~~comprising administering to the said animal an enhancing cartilage development effective amount of at least one sulfur containing amino acid and manganese.